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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-fifth session
Geneva, 12 October 1998
Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the forty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

1. Procedural matters:
   (a) Election of officers
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   (d) Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Board

2. Segment for high-level participation: the impact of financial crisis on trade, investment and development: regional perspectives

3. High-level Mid-term Review

4. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: the causes, management and prevention of financial crisis

5. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:
   (a) Trade and investment in LDCs: opportunities and constraints in the multilateral trading system
   (b) Contribution of the Board to the consideration by the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, of the date, duration and venue of the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and its preparatory process

6. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Prospects for agriculture, trade and industrialization

7. Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD in accordance with paragraph 96 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development"

8. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
   - Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-first annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

9. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
   (a) Review of the calendar of meetings
   (b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

10. Other business

11. Adoption of the report

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*As approved by the Bureau and coordinators on 9 July 1998.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Procedural matters

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

(a) Election of officers

In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall consist of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur (i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended).

In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the President of the Board for the forty-fifth session shall be a representative of one of the States in List A (Asia) and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List B. The 10 Vice-presidents shall therefore be - 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 3 from List B; 2 from List C; and 2 from List D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

The provisional agenda for the current session is reproduced in section I above.

Organization of work

In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been designed so that no two meetings take place at a given time. They have also been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly that of small delegations, and most efficient use of conference resources.

Establishment of sessional committees

In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. The proposed allocation of items between the plenary and sessional committees, in accordance with rule 13, is indicated in annex I of this document.

Schedule of meetings

The table in annex II below shows the overall timetable for the two-week period. It is understood that this schedule should be flexible to take into account developments during the session. For the High-Level Segment, a detailed programme will be circulated at a later date.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials

In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Board.

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Board

The draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this to the Consultations of the Bureau and Coordinators.

In-session documentation

Item 2 Segment for high-level participation: the impact of financial crisis on trade, investment and development: regional perspectives

Paragraph 107(c) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" stated that "*in executing its mandated functions, the Trade and Development Board will meet in regular or executive sessions. The regular session of the Board will be convened in one part in autumn for approximately 10 working days. At that session, a segment should be included to deal with a substantive policy item with a view to attracting high-level participation. Personalities from the public, private/business and academic sectors in areas related to UNCTAD's work should be invited to attend*".

The third such high-level segment will be held at the forty-fifth session of the Board. The first addressed the topic of "*foreign direct investment and development in a globalizing world economy*" and was moderated by Mr. Alec Erwin, Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa. The second addressed the topic of "*Globalization, competition, competitiveness and development*" and was moderated by Mr Jan Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands.

The topic this year will be approached from the perspective of the implications of the current financial crisis for global trade and investment flows, with particular reference to the development prospects of developing countries taking as a point of entry the differential impact on the world's economic regions. The globalization of the world economy has greatly increased the possibility of localized financial upheavals spreading to other countries and regions via trade and investment channels. The transmission mechanisms are complex, and their impact will vary according to the economic sectors concerned. The evidence so far suggests that the most important factor determining the differential impact of a financial crisis is the regional one. The ripple effects will be "mediated" by this factor because regional economic relations offer options for countries potentially affected by the crisis and because regional institutions and arrangements allow for collective policy responses.

A discussion of the impact of financial crisis from a regional perspective could furthermore throw light on the more general issue of the dynamic relation between globalization and regionalism. It can be argued that globalization is increasingly proceeding through the interaction of regional economic areas and groupings, rather than through the atomistic integration of individual national economies into an undifferentiated world economy.

Documentation

An issues paper will be circulated

Item 3 High-level Mid-term Review

The Midrand Declaration stated that "*to build on the political commitment of member States to the process initiated at this Conference and ensure its implementation, the President of UNCTAD IX should consider convening a special high-level review meeting two years prior to UNCTAD X*". You will also recall that, in its resolution 52/182 of December 1997, operative paragraph 2, the General Assembly "*also reaffirms its political will and responsibility with respect to implementing the agreed commitments reached at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa, in particular the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development", and, in this regard, welcomes the convening of a special high-level mid-term review meeting in 1998, which will contribute to the preparations for the tenth session of the Conference, to be held in Thailand in 2000.*

At its sixteenth executive session on 16 February 1998, the Trade and Development Board launched the mid-term review process. In doing so, the Board mandated the Vice-President of the Board, Ambassador Benjelloun-Touimi (Morocco). to conduct the review. Ambassador Benjelloun reported the outcome of the mid-term review exercise to the eighteenth executive session of the Trade and Development Board on 10 July 1998.

At is eighteenth executive session, the Board approved and adopted the outcome of the mid-term review (TD/B/EX(18)/L.2 and Corr.1), requested member States, the UNCTAD secretariat and relevant organizations to fully implement the recommendations contained therein, and requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to proceed immediately with the implementation of those recommendations, to provide regular progress reports at the monthly consultations and to transmit the outcome to the High-level Mid-term Review Meeting.

The High-level Mid-term Review will be chaired by Mr. Alec Erwin, Minister for Trade and Industry of South Africa and it is expected that the discussions will focus on the follow-up to the mid-term review exercise with a view to assessing global developments since Midrand, the expectations over the next two years and the future prospects looking forward to UNCTAD X and beyond. The dialogue should focus on issues that could be addressed at UNCTAD X, particularly with a view to elaborating the agenda of the Conference.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(18)/4	Report of the Trade and Development Board on its eighteenth executive session
	In-session documentation

Item 4 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: the causes, management and prevention of financial crisis

Drawing on the recent East Asian experience, as well as on earlier financial crisis, this item will examine the role of external and domestic factors in creating financial fragility and triggering currency turmoil and external debt crises in developing countries. Attention will be paid not only to macroeconomic fundamentals, including unsustainable exchange rates and current account positions, but also to the role of institutional and regularatory weaknesses in generating excessive credit expansion, bubbles in asset markets, and large build-ups of liquid and short-term external liabilities. Regarding the management of crises, attention will be focused on appropriate national and international policy responses including the institutional framework for debt work-outs, provisionof international liquidity, and policy conditionality. The item will also cover other measures needed at the national and global level to reduce the likelihood of such crises and to contain their effects on the real economy.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/1998 and Overview	*Trade and Development Report, 1998*

Item 5 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

(a) Trade and investment in LDCs: opportunities and constraints in the multilateral trading system

(b) Contribution of the Board to the consideration by the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, of the date, duration and venue of the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and its preparatory process

The Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s and General Assembly resolution 45/206 entrusted UNCTAD with the focal role in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its follow-up at the global level. "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377) reaffirmed this mandate and provided in paragraph 107(c) that the Board will review at its annual sessions progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action. For the consideration of agenda item 5(a), the Board will have before it the Least Developed Countries 1998 Report. The main theme of the Report is an analysis of how different aspects of the multilateral trading system affect opportunities and constraints for LDCs in enhancing their participation in the world economy. Part I of the Report, comprising three chapters, will focus on recent economic developments in LDCs, trends in commodity prices of relevance to LDCs, a brief review of developments in the global economy, mobilization of private finance for investment in LDCs, and the special problems facing 10 small island LDCs. Part II of the Report, comprising five chapters, will focus on trade, investment and the multilateral trading system. The Report reviews the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements, explores a number of issues relating to trade and environment, examines opportunities for LDCs in trade in services, analyses the potential costs and benefits for LDCs of a possible future MIA and analyses the implications of the proposed WTO financial services agreement for LDCs. The Report identifies areas where specific concessions and provisions in multilateral agreements may be beneficial to LDCs and where technical assistance may be needed to help LDCs integrate into the global economy.

As regards agenda item 5(b), the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/187, decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the LDCs in the year 2001. The mandate of the Conference will be as follows: (i) assess the results of the Programme of Action during the 1990s at the country level; (ii) review the implementation of international support measures, particularly in the areas of official development assistance, debt, investment and trade; (iii) consider the formulation and adoption of appropriate national and international policies and measures for sustainable development of the least developed countries and their progressive integration into the world economy. The Assembly also decided to convene an intergovernmental preparatory committee in due time to prepare for the Conference. That meeting would be preceded by three expert-level preparatory meetings.

The Assembly further decided that UNCTAD will be the focal point for the preparation of the Conference. It decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session a sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s" and to consider, inter alia, the date, duration and venue of the Conference, its preparatory process and the funding for participation of representatives from each least developed country, both at the preparatory committee meeting and at the Conference itself from extra budgetary resources.

The above General Assembly resolution was based on the recommendations made by the Board at its forty-fourth session (recommendation 442(XLIV)). The Board's consideration of this item could lead to recommendations to facilitate a decision by the General Assembly on the above issues.

Documentation

UNCTAD/LDC/1998 and Overview	*The Least Developed Countries 1998 Report*

Item 6 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Prospects for agriculture, trade and industrialization

In its agreed conclusions 443(XLIV), the Board agreed that UNCTAD should closely monitor the relationship between debt and the capacity of African countries to generate savings to support investment. It also agreed that UNCTAD should analyse further development and trade-related questions of investment and incentives in the agricultural sector. The *Trade and Development Report 1998* devotes its Part II to "African development in a comparative perspective". It will review trends and prospects for economic growth and development in Africa. In the area of agriculture, it will consider the role, structure and performance of agriculture in African economies and will review policies, prices and production in this sector. The report also analyses trade, industry and accumulation and finally will consider policy challenges and institutional reforms. In the light of the above, there will be no separate documentation for the consideration of this item which is amply covered by Part II of the *Trade and Development Report*.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/1998 and Overview	*Trade and Development Report, 1998, Part II*

Item 7 Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD in accordance with paragraph 96 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development

In accordance with paragraph 107(b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", the Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 1997, as well as considering developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation including cooperation with other organizations and trends in the mobilization of resources. The Board will be assisted in this matter by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget which, at its thirty-second session (first part), to be held from 21 to 28 September 1998, will conduct a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 1997.

At its sixteenth executive session, on 16 February 1998, the Board took note of UNCTAD's Technical Cooperation Plan for 1998-2000 (TD/B/EX(16)/2).

The secretariat's report to the Board will include information on the above issues, as well as specific proposals on financial self-sustainability and partial cost recovery in certain UNCTAD technical cooperation programmes. Information will also be provided on UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities in least developed countries (LDCs).

Documentation

TD/B/45/6 - TD/B/WP/109	Overview of technical cooperation activities
TD/B/45/6/Add.1 - TD/B/WP/109/Add.1	Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 1997 (English only)
TD/B/45/6/Add.2 - TD/B/WP/109/Add.2	Statistical tables (English only)

Item 8 Other matters in the field of trade and development:

- Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-first annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The thirty-first session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in Vienna from 1 to 12 June 1998. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI) also provides that any comments or recommendations which the Board may wish to make on the report shall be transmitted to the General Assembly. Likewise, any suggestions for topics to be included in the work of UNCITRAL should also be transmitted to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/45/7
A/52/17 — Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 9 — Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Review of the calendar of meetings

The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1998 and an indicative calendar for 1999, as approved by the Bureau and coordinators on calendar matters, together with a note on any further adjustments recommended, if necessary.

Documentation

TD/B/45/CRP.1 — Review of the calendar of meetings

(b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 10 — Other business

Item 11 — Adoption of the report

In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.

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Annex I

ALLOCATION OF ITEMS

PLENARY

1(a)	Election of officers
1(b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session
1(c)	Adoption of the report on credentials
1(d)	Provisional agenda for the forty.fifth session of the Board
2	Segment for high-level participation: the impact of the financial crisis on trade. investment and development: regional perspectives
3	High-level Mid-Term Review
4	Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: the causes, management and prevention of financial crisis
7	Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD in accordance with paragraph 96 of the Midrand Partnership for Growth and Development
8	Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-first annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
9(a)	Review of the calendar of meetings
9(b)	Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
10	Other business
11	Adoption of the report

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I

5 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

(a) Trade and investment in LDCs: opportunities and constraints in the multilateral trading system

(b) Contribution of the Board to the consideration by the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, of the date, duration and venue of the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and its preparatory process

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II

6 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Prospects for agriculture, trade and industrialization

Annex II

Schedule of Meetings
from 12 to 23 October 1998

First week	**Monday 12/10**	**Tuesday 13/10**	**Wednesday 14/10**	**Thursday 15/10**	**Friday 16/10**
10 .00 a.m.	PLENARY (Opening)	INFORMALS (Item 4)	PLENARY (Item 7)	SC I (Item 5)	SC I (Item 5)
3.00 p.m.	PLENARY (Item 4)	INFORMALS (Item 4)	PLENARY (Item 8)	SC I (Item 5)	BUREAU

Second week	**Monday 19/10**	**Tuesday 20/10**	**Wednesday 21/10**	**Thursday 22/10**	**Friday 23/10**
10.00 a.m.	SC II (Item 6)	SC II (Item 6)	BUREAU	HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	HIGH-LEVEL MEETING (Mid-term Review)
3.00 p.m.	9th Raul Prebisch Lecture	SC II (Item 6)	Adoption of reports SC I SC II	HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	PLENARY -Closing of all items -Adoption of the Report